JACKETS AND FEATHERS.

CHINESE NOBILITY FROM EMPEROR TO THE PETTY COUNTS.

Hung Chang and His Yellow Jacket-His Three-Eyed Pencock Peather-The Emperor and His Tartar Reintives.

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Li Hung Chang has been given back his yellow Jacket and his three-eyed peacock feather. The emperor has called him to Peking, and he should by this time be on his way to Japan to aid in the settlement of the war. His career shows the ups and downs of Chinese officials, and a look at it will give some lidea of the queer ranks and orders of noblity with which the empire of China is honeycombed. Li Hung Chang is a self-made man. His father was a poor scholar in the province of Anhul, and he had to scratch around and skimp himself in order to pay for Li's education. Li passed the examinations of his own province and these of the district in which he was located, and when he was still in his teens he went to Peking and wrote his essays in the big examination halls there. Seventeen thousand other students, of all ages, from 18 to 80, were being examined at the same time and Li came out the highest. This gave him his start and he was put on the staff of one of the generals who were acting against the rebels in the famous Taiping rebellion. This war occurred in China about the time Franklin Pierce was president. It cost the country 10,000,000 lives, and it was largely through Li that It was put down. Li Hung Chang is a diplomat as well as a statesman, and he



A CHINESE DUKE.

worked his way up from one position to another until he got to be commander-inchief. He took Chinese Gordon into his confidence and made him one of his generals. Gordon drilled the Chinese according to foreign tactics, and together they vanquished the robels. The result was that Li became only second to the emperor. This is the position which he holds to-day. He is superintendent of Northern trade, and controls the commercial matters of all North China, numbering more than 170,000,000 people. He is the governor general of the province of Chill and is practically the secretary of state. He has for years been the chief medium of communication between the Chinese and foreign nations and he is the most progressive Chinaman in the empire. It was he who introduced the telegraph into China and the wires that run into his palace at Tientsin connect him with every court of Europe and with every part of the United States. He is said to be a very rich man and his income ranges between \$50,000 and \$169,000 per year. No one knows how much he has made outside of his offices. I have heard it said in Tientsin that he was worth \$50,000,000, and on the other hand his friends claim that he is not worth more than \$2,000,000 or \$5,000,000. Whatever he has must come from his own idea of his share of the receipts, for the Chinese government pays small salaries and expects the officials to steal the balance. Peacock Feathers in China.

Li has risen in rank, as well as in power. He is new an earl, and when I saw him last summer at a banquet in his palace his head was decorated with a cap, out of the back of which stuck his three-eyed peacock feather. This last is even a greater distinction than the yellow jacket. It is one of the greatest things an emperor can give, and is usually conferred only upon princes and nobles of the highest degree. The feather was about two feet long and was fastened to a big cap with a turned up brim by a great button, which rested on the center of the crown of the hat, which was also a mark of high rank. The feather stuck out behind the hat and quivered as Li Hung Chang put his yellow fists together and bowed low in saluting his guests. There were other peacock feathers upon some of the Chinese high officials among the guests, but Li Hung Chang was the only one who had a three-eyed peacock feather. The double-eyed peacock feather is a much lower honor, and the single-eyed peacock feather. The double-eyed peacock feather is a much lower honor, and the single-eyed peacock feather. The double-eyed peacock feather is a much lower honor, and the single-eyed peacock feather. The double-eyed peacock feather is a much lower honor, and the single-eyed peacock feather. The double-eyed peacock feather is a much lower honor, and the single-eyed peacock feather. The highest hutton is of dark red coral, Members of the second class of nobility wear a coral ball of light red. The third class have a button is of dark red coral ball of light red. The third class have a button is of dark red coral ball of crystal; a mandarin of the sixth class has a little ball made of mother-of-pearl on the top of his cap. Below these come the mandarins of the seventh and elighth classes, who wear big marbles of gold, and members of the ninth class, who have their hats decorated with silver balls. These official caps or hats fit close to the head when the man who has it is in the correct of the cap and the coral ball of coral ball of the cap and the



a record of all the branches of the emperor's family. Each of its members has allowance from the two remment, but the line of the supposed to be suppressed in the can appoint his own successor, choosing which of his children shall succeed him. He is supposed to be superene, and he can appoint his own successor, choosing which of his children shall succeed him. He is supposed to make this selection in secret and the announcement of his choice is not to be made until his death. The present emperor has a number of relatives who are known as princes, and amons these is Prince Chile, who as fatar, and while his official boots were of biack broad these is Prince Chile, who a fatar, and while his official boots were of biack broad his tendencies. These princes have their own rank, and there are twelve different orders of nobility among the members of his tendencies. These princes have their own rank, and there are twelve different orders of nobility among the members of the imperial household. The highest princes set about \$13,000 a year, and they are the princes set about \$13,000 a year, and they are the princes and household. The highest princes set about \$13,000 a year apiece for them. These highest princes are the majecty's coulens, who get about \$45,000 a year, and they can be also as the majecty's coulens, who get about \$45,000 a year, and they can be also as the majecty's coulens, who get about \$45,000 a year, and the other relatives are the majecty's coulens, who get about \$45,000 a year, and the other relatives are the majecty's coulens, who get about \$45,000 a year, and the other relatives are the majecty's coulens, who get about \$45,000 a year, and the other relatives are the more of these courts the family for a number of the succeeding emperor. The number of these officials is different transfer, every mineral state of the family that the province in which for the more of the succeeding emperor is a conference of a fruit store. She was very been the more of the province in which for the province in which

worlts concubine, and in due time became mother of the succeeding emperor.

Some Queer Frinces.

Some of the members of the emperor's family are very poor. I was told of a number of princes who live in Peking and who are chronically hard up. I heard of others who delight in going about through the city in disguise, and who do all sorts of curious things. The emperor's father is now dead. He was a great noble, and when he was alive he was a man of considerable influence. The empress dowager has more power than any other person in the country. She educated the emperor, and she winds him about her finger. He has not yet been able to cut loose from her apron strings, and she governs him also through his wives. She picked out the women who compose his official harem, and she has the whole court under her long-nalled thumb. She is a strong friend of Li Hung Chang's, and it is through her influence that Li is sent to Japan. She also governs the enunchs of the palace, of whom there are supposed to be 3,000, and she is, in fact, the power behind the throne of the Chinese government.

How the Nobles Dress.

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Everyone has heard of the Chinese buttons and how they indicate rank. A great many people, however, have no idea what the official button is. All Chinamen have buttons about as big as a hickory nut on the top of their skull caps, and in the case of the common people those buttons are made out of blue or red silk thread, and when a man goes into mourning they are white silk. The average common cap is of the finest black satin and it surprised me to find that the shapes of these caps change from year to year, and that last year's block is not the proper shape for this year. The Chinese are as particular about the cut of their clothes as we are. They have their favorite fashionable colors, and there are just as many dudes and dandies in Peking and Canton as there are in New York and Washington. The official button is about three times as large



cross the continue from the Pacific coast about the 23d, cross the Western mountain country by the close of the 24th, the great Central valleys from the 25th to the 27th and the Eastern states the 25th. This will be a severe and what is often termed the equinctial storm. There is no regular date for these equinocital storms and they may occur at any time from the 16th to the 27th of March or September. Planetary influence must be taken into the estimate in order to ascertain the true date of the equinocital storm.

This storm will occur during the cold period of March, and, although mild weather will accompany the storm, especially on its south side, the temperature will drop back to cold following it and a cold wave, approaching to the blizzard kind in the Northern states, may be expected to follow the warm wave of the storm dates given above.

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